

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 4 December 2008
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Rob Desmaris, Peter Manor, Bill Rudolph, Karen Crago-Slater,
Cindy Roberts, Jay Knapp and Mark Sydlowski

The meeting began at 6:35 PM.

The minutes from November were approved (Cindy 1st, Bruce 2nd the motion) as written.

A. Engineers Update

1. Possible hose spigot at town ramp to aid in boaters rinsing off boats and trailers, as well as flushing out engines. Would limit transfer of weeds.
2. The repair to the ramp by the barge firm was quite good.
3. L&WW would like to initiate the adding of rocks/gravel to the under water portion of the ramp. This to eliminate the “holes” and the end of the ramp. Motion to ConCom
4. Rob will draft letter to the town and ask them to drop a load of rocks at the end of the ramp.
5. Lake Attitash and Gardner are lowered down to the appropriate level.
6. Repairs at Lake Gardner are not yet completed.
7. Repairs on the gunder boom are not yet completed. Will be a spring project to repair the dislodged boom.

B. Sargents Farm

1. Permit expires in March of 2009.
2. Lake Attitash Committee wrote letter to the EPA (C. Roberts)
3. Public Comment Period needs to be known so that L&WW committee’s opinion can be heard.
4. The “Odor” is a public nuisance and the high phosphorous count in the water is an un-healthy situation. Proper management practices are not being followed.

C. Watershed Management Plan

1. Greg sent comments off.
2. Need to debate on how to lower water to kill weeds during winter.
3. Plan needs to be revised to control weeds.

D. Bill Rudolph’s visit to “9 Towns on the Bay”

1. Towns in the group are Rockport to Salisbury (Amesbury)
2. Bill will continue to be involved in that group on behalf of L&WW.
3. Bill will offer Bruce Georgians findings (Invasive Species Control) to the group in hopes of gaining assistance for grants to find a remedy.

- E. **Boat Launch on the lower Powow River (Mill Yard)**
a. It appears that the boat launch for kayaks and canoes is part of the overall plan.
- E. **Next Meeting:**
Scheduled for January 22, 2009 @ 6:30 PM

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 23 October 2008
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Cindy Roberts, Mark Sydlowski, Bruce Georgian, Bill Rudolph, Karen Crago-Slater, Jay Knapp, Pete Manor and Deb Carey with "Eight Towns and the Bay"

The meeting began at 6:30 PM.

- F. **Engineers Update**
1. The lakes are being drawn down.
 2. Repairs will be attempted to be made to the gunderboom to remove sediment.
 3. No word from the DCR as of yet regarding Stateline Dam and its classification.
- G. **Current Business**
1. Deb Carey with Eight Towns and the Bay organization spoke.
 2. www.8TB.org is a coalition for a variety of interests.
 3. Boiester@gmail.com
 4. Bill Rudolph may elect to represent L&WW at "Eight Towns and a Bay" meetings.
- H. **Meadowbrook update**
1. Greg drafted a letter to MEPA expressing our concerns regarding the on-site sewer management plan (as well as other concerns).
 2. Letter was seen as acceptable by the commission.
- I. **Sargents Farm Update**
1. DEP was tasked (Gary Bogue) to draft letter to Deval Patrick.
 2. DEP has indicated to contact EPA
- J. **Lake Gardner Weed Assessment**
1. Bruce still unable to make headway with the original plan

2. Cindy will send Bruce a link (EPA) for grants.

K. Watershed Management Plan Update

1. Need to merge documents (Greg & Pete) to determine final draft.

L. On-Going business

1. Bill Rudolph attended a recent meeting regarding the bridge repair on Deer Island. The 3.5 year plan has been reduced to 2 or 2.5 years.

M. Next Meeting:

Scheduled for December 4th @ 6:30 PM

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 25 September 2008
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Bruce Georgian, Bill Rudolph, Karen Crago-Slater, John Vigliotti, Rob Desmarais and Pete Manor.

The meeting began at 6:30 PM.

Minutes from the August 28, 2008 meeting were approved (motioned by Karen 1st, Bill 2nd) as written.

A. Engineers Update

1. Rob confirmed that Pete Manor will have responsibility for attending L&W meetings. Rob will attempt to attend occasionally.
2. Rob clarified the reasoning for tree cutting at Lake Gardner Beach. A lack of municipal funding has prohibited the ability of DPW to maintain the area adjacent to the beach. The maintenance plan for this area includes annual landscaping and several years of overgrowth lead to the work performed.
3. DCR is going to visit the Town concerning Arch Brook and State Line dams. The Town wishes to declassify State Line and focus attention on Arch Brook which has greater need for repair.
4. Winter draw down of the lakes has begun.
5. The Town has signed an agreement with a contractor to perform the work at Lake Gardener Dam. Following the drop in water level, the contractor will proceed with the work.
6. The well head protection plan is out for review and will be adopted by the Mayor.

7. The Water Plant Upgrade and Newton Road Dam replacement are progressing on schedule. A preliminary design is due October 15th.
8. Greg Roy and Pete Manor are going to meet over the next few weeks to continue progress on the Watershed Management Plan.

B. Weed Assessment by Bruce Georgian

1. Bruce is still attempting to connect with DCR so that the results of the weed assessment of Lake Gardner can be consolidated into a useful tool.
2. Bruce will check into possible funding Mass Water Watch Partnership at UMass.

C. Sargent's Farm

1. A review of the Sargent Farm issue was provided.
2. Cindy was attending the Lake Attitash Association (LAA) meeting to get more involved with them and gain more information the farm.
3. The Commission and Town remain committed to helping LAA in their effort to control discharges for the Sargent Farm composting operation.
4. The Commission and Town will not take the lead in any action against the farm. This was agreed by all commission members.

D. Adjournment

1. Next Meeting Scheduled for Thursday October 23, 2008

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 28 August 2008
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Jay Knapp, Cindy Roberts, Bruce Georgian, Bill Rudolph, Karen Crago-Slater, Mark Sydlowski and Pete Manor. Also present: Ron Klodenski & Todd Campbell of the **Lake Attitash Association**.

The meeting began at 6:35 PM.

The minutes from July 24, 2008 were approved (Cindy 1st, Bruce 2nd the motion) as written.

A. Weed Assessment by Bruce Georgian

1. Bruce provided a summary of the weed assessment conducted on Lake Gardner.
2. The effort was a success attracting 18 participants.
3. Bruce was interviewed by The Daily News and an article published.

4. The largest problem is Milfoil as well as Duck Weed.
5. Bruce will check into possible funding Mass Water Watch Partnership at UMass.
6. Bruce will come in with some final suggestions.

B. Sargent's Farm

1. Todd Campbell and Ron Klodenski, members of the Lake Attitash Association, provided the history of the issues with this farm.
2. Sargent's Farm "appears" to be a primary contributor of pollutants.
3. They have a 1983 permit to compost waste from General Foods, dog bed down, and other food processing waste.
4. Potential seepage from waste may be causing lake contamination and odor.
5. Efforts to contact the state DEP have not provided satisfactory results.
6. Efforts to be made to contact the EPA?
7. Lake Attitash Association would like assistance from L&W on this issue.

C. Engineers Update

1. Pete Manor indicated that the Lake Gardner Dam repair will begin after September 15th. This is when water is drawn down.
2. Arch Brook: Seeking to have DCR mandate the repair of Arch Brook as opposed to "State Line".
3. Lake Gardner "Tree Cutting". Rob Desmarais or Pete Manor to identify what mandated this work.

D. Adjournment

1. Next Meeting Scheduled for Thursday September 25, 2008

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 24 July 2008
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Bruce Georgian, Cindy Roberts, Karen Crago-Slater, Mark Sydlowski, Bill Rudolph, John Vigliotto and Rob Desmarais

The meeting began at 6:35 PM.

The minutes from July 24, 2008 were approved (Cindy 1st, Bruce 2nd the motion) as written.

A. Engineers Update

1. The Town intends to improve the website
2. Lake Gardner dam to be repaired soon.
3. Arch Brook: no funding.
4. Sampled Lake Attitash water regarding the algae situation. (Ciano Bacteria).
 - i. Levels are safe, even though bacteria is present.
5. Rob will post the "Water Quality" on the Town Website.
6. There could be an unhealthy situation at hand.
7. Rob will alert the Board of Health.

B. Storm Water By-laws

1. No changes.
2. Should be finalized by October
3. Comments provided by Cindy Roberts.

C. Town Ramp

1. Will be patching areas above the waterline (ramp and asphalt) in the coming weeks.

D. Cindy's Ramp Effort

1. Was successful but small. (rainy day)
2. Would like larger signs at ramp (s)
3. Would like to do another one in August or September.

E. Watershed Management Plan

1. Greg has offered suggestions in a variety of areas. Discussed with Rob Desmarais, and Rob will review suggestions.
2. Need letter from L&WW to Rob Desmarais indicating that street sweeping / catch basin cleaning should be done twice per year. This as opposed to the current once per year.
3. Bruce Georgian has a group going out to Lake Gardner this weekend. Sampling various weeds at various depths in various sectors of the lake. Will discuss the results at the next meeting.

F. Election of Officers to Lake the Waterways Commission

1. Greg Roy was elected Chairman of the Commission. Nominated by Cindy Roberts, Bruce Georgian and John Vigliotti.

2. Bruce Georgian was elected Vice Chair. Nominated by Cindy Roberts, Bruce Georgian.
3. Mark Sydlowski was elected Secretary. Nominated by Cindy Roberts, Bruce Georgian and Greg Roy.

G. Meeting Conclusion

1. The L&W Commission is seeking additional members. Need to place an ad in the Daily News. Need to contact Katie at the paper to write the ad.

H. Next Meeting:

Scheduled for August 28, 2008 @ 6:30 PM

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 26 June 2008
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Bruce Georgian, Cindy Roberts, Karen Crago-Slater, Bill Rudolph and Rob Desmarais

The meeting began at 6:35 PM.

The minutes from May 22, 2008 were approved (Cindy 1st, Bruce 2nd the motion) as written.

Greg Roy provided a copy of a letter to Rob Desmarais (DPW Director) requesting that the Town plan for repairs to the Amesbury boat launch on the Merrimack River. Repairs to the ramp will remain an open agenda item while pursuing a dock at the same location is not being pursued at this time.

The Commission discussed plans for assessing weeds in the Town's lakes and ponds. It was decided that the commission will conduct a study to assess the problem first and then develop ideas for solving the problem. Lake Gardner was chosen as the first water body to be studied and plans are being developed by Bruce for this event. Rob agreed that Lake Gardner is the appropriate place to start.

Cindy provided an update on the boat ramp monitoring which will occur on June 28th at the Lake Attitash ramp. Boats will be inspected entering and leaving the ramp for weeds and boaters will be educated about the harm caused by invasive species. The inspection

will occur between 7 and 11 AM. It was suggested that more frequent inspections be performed with assistance from the Lake Attitash Association.

Greg Roy mentioned that revisions to the Watershed Management Plan continue and at some point will require input from Town staff. Revisions to the document will include a section detailing methods to control invasive weeds, such as a winter draw down of some water bodies.

Cindy mentioned that residents have requested more frequent street sweeping and catch basin cleaning of streets along the perimeter of Lake Attitash.

Rob Desmarais provided a brief update on Town dams and other projects.

- A well head protection plan (Newton Road, 2 wells) is being developed and Rob would like a review by the Lakes and Waterways Commission. This will require revised zoning plans.
- Rob briefed the commission on new staff in the DPW office.
- The Lake Gardner dam repair should be conducted towards the end of Aug.
- The Arch Brook dam repair will not be conducted due to a lack in funding.
- State Line Dam will receive minor repairs in Aug.
- Someone operated a gate at Lake Gardner dam allow water to be released. This was corrected and ideas are being sought to prohibit an occurrence in the future.
- It is anticipated that a water main extension will be installed if Meadow Brook Estates are constructed. This should allow for a draw down of Tuxbury Pond with no impact to private wells because they should be converted over to the public water supply.

The meeting was closed at 8:10 PM (Cindy 1st and Bruce 2nd the motion). The next Commission meeting will be on July 24, 2008

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of May 22 2008
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Jay Knapp, Cindy Roberts and Bill Rudolph

The meeting began at 6:35 PM.

A. Previous Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting minutes from March 27th were approved. Cindy 1st and Jay 2nd.
2. Meeting minutes from April 24th were approved with edits. Cindy 1st and Bill 2nd.

B. Town Flyer

1. Cindy needs to post to Website
2. The only feedback from the flyer was a resident from Lake Attitash calling Greg letting him know that the storm drains need to be cleaned more frequently. The sand is going into the lake. Cindy will put in a request to DPW.

C. Stormwater Bylaws

1. Bill reviewed the document and said it is in-sync with Rockport's storm-water bylaws
2. Greg submitted comments for Rob
3. Would be good to get additional feedback from members

D. Watershed Awareness Program

Greg is reorganizing and making some additional edits

E. Merrimack River Boat launch

Greg is going to write a letter to Rob to request ramp repair for 2009.

F. Lake Attitash Boat Ramp Project

Cindy is organizing the boat ramp event for the ramp in Merrimac for Lake Attitash on June 28th. We'll need volunteers.

The meeting ended at 8:05PM. The next Commission meeting will be on June 26, 2008 at 6:30PM

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 24 April 2008
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Karen Crago-Slater, Bruce Georgian, Cindy Roberts, Mark Sydlowski, Bill Rudolph and Rob Desmarais

The meeting began at 6:35 PM.

Guests in attendance: Larry Kelcourse, Larry's Marina, Inc.

A. Engineers Update

1. The Lake Gardner Dam improvement plan is approved and going out for bid. Archbrook Dam improvements have not been funded this fiscal year.
2. The Town will be hiring an assistant engineer and possibly a Co-Op student to assist in the engineering duties. Rob was promoted to Director

of DPW, but will remain the primary contact between the Town and Commission.

3. Each member should review Rob's email containing the "Stormwater Management Plan" and provide feed back, one week prior to the next meeting.

B. Town Ramp Improvements

1. The Commission decided to move forward in repairing the "holes" in the ramp using a temporary "stone" fix, although it may not happen this boating season.
2. It was decided that Greg Roy would draft a letter on behalf of the committee and submit it to Robert Desmarais. This letter / recommendation would then be presented to the Conservation Commission for approval.
3. It is noted that this "stone" fix is considered temporary. The Commission (Mark Sydlowski) will seek additional information from outside contractors on a more permanent repair. CW White in Gloucester?
4. Rob Desmarais will talk to the State of Massachusetts to see what the "Block" construction repair would cost based on past projects.
5. The "Dock" discussion will be continued at our next meeting.
6. Larry Kelcourse spoke of the concerns related to installing a dock at the ramp. He feels that things work fine now and only a repair to the ramp is required.

C. Watershed Awareness Flyer

1. The flyer was approved for distribution and is at the printer.
2. It will be mailed in bulk on or before May 10, 2008
3. The Commission would like to hear if there's any feed back from the mailer. Both positive and negative.
4. Flyer will be posted to the Commission's website.

D. Watershed Management Plan

1. Lake Attitash appears to require sand bar & rock markers.
2. The modification to the plan continues and some discussion of the potential changes occurred. More debate will occur at meetings later this year.

The next Commission meeting will be on May 22, 2008 at 6:30PM

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of 27 March 2008
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Bruce Georgian, Cindy Roberts, Mark Sydlowski, Jay Knapp, Karen Crago-Slater and Rob Desmarais

The meeting began at 6:30 PM.

The minutes from February 21, 2008 were approved as written.

A. Engineers Update

Rob Desmarais provided a summary of projects required to improve the Town's surface water control structures. The Crib Dam improvement project has been approved. The State has classified the State Line Dam as high hazard, which requires a Phase I investigation including a hydro-geologic study. The Town is going to appeal this classification since the dam has little to no hazard potential. A draft of the Stormwater Management Bylaw has been completed and needs to be reviewed by the Commission. Rob will email the document to the Commission members and would like comments provided at the next meeting. He would like a Commission vote to accept the document in May and the Commission to provide a letter of recommendation to the Mayor.

B. The "Watershed and Waterway Management Plan"

1. The document is still in draft and modifications are progressively being made.
2. The intent is to have a final draft available for Commission discussion of critical changes in July.

C. Watershed Awareness Flyer

1. The flyer content is acceptable to the Commission and final formatting is required prior to printing and mailing.
2. Once completed, Cindy would be available to provide a final review of the document.

D. Merrimack River launch repair and new dock

1. The Commission discussed the need to repair the ground surface leading into the river. There is a significant drop at the end of the ramp, which can be dangerous for boaters.
2. The Commission discussed the potential for installing a dock at the ramp. Several members expressed the potential benefits of such dock.
3. Mark agreed to take on this project and will start a development plan following the Commissions agreement to proceed.

The next Commission meeting will be on April 24, 2008.

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of February 21, 2008
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Bruce Georgian, Cindy Roberts, Mark Sydlowski, Jay Knapp and Rob Desmarais

The meeting began at 6:30 PM.

The minutes from January 24, 2008 were approved as written.

- A. The “Watershed and Waterway Management Plan”**
 - 1. The committee thought the plan was quite positive
 - 2. The comments in the packet by Greg Roy were excellent
 - 3. Rob (Town Engineer) would be the best person to review it.
 - 4. The timelines in the report were excellent
 - 5. Cindy will review and comment
 - 6. Bruce will review and comment

- B. Cindy Roberts “Flyer”**
 - 1. The committee thought the concept was quite good.
 - 2. The committee will provide feedback on the flyer content
 - 3. The committee discussed the layout and content. Very positive
 - 4. The committee looked at avenues to fund distribution.
 - 5. Possibly modify layout
 - 6. Possibly add coupons (car wash, fertilizer at local retailers)
 - 7. Cindy will send out for final approval.

- C. Bruce Georgian “Weed Watcher Grant”**
 - 1. Amesbury would need to be professionally mapped to identify problem areas.
 - 2. This is the only avenue to ultimately obtain a state grant.
 - 3. A professional study would cost approximately \$10,000.00
 - 4. Bruce is on a “grant alert list”

- D. Lakes and Waterways would like to have a member or members join other committees such as:**
 - 1. Lake Gardner Committee
 - 2. Lake Attitash Committee
 - 3. This effort would assist the more local committees on issues directly related to each committee.

- E. Future Projects**

1. Looking at dock possibility at the Merrimack Ramp
2. Looking at DPW area as a potential site to safely launch kayaks, canoes, etc. In conjunction with the Riverwalk project.
3. Would need to explain to Rob Desmarais what the committee would like to do.
4. Would also ask Greg Roy which direction we need to head first regarding the dock possibilities.

The next Commission meeting will be on March 27, 2008.

**Town of Amesbury
Lakes and Waterways Commission
Meeting of January 24, 2008
Amesbury Health Center**

MINUTES:

Present: Greg Roy, Bruce Georgian, Cindy Roberts, Karen Crago-Slater and Rob Desmarais

The meeting began at 6:40 PM.

The minutes from November 8th was approved (Karen 1st, Bruce 2nd) as written.

Rob Desmarais provided a brief update on water/dam projects.

- The Water Treatment Plan SRF funding was approved. This includes the repair/replacement of the Weir dam on the Powwow. The project will go out to bid next year.
- Funding for the Lake Gardner dam repair is all set through FEMA.
- The Arch Brook dam repair funding will be resubmitted to the council.

Rob stated that he can match funds for a grant if it's done by the end of March. Bruce is researching grant possibilities.

Rob and Greg would like members to review and comment on the Watershed Management Plan. Copies were distributed.

The rest of the meeting was spent on discussing the town mailing. The purpose will be watershed protection and storm-water awareness. Cindy will develop the content for the mailing and provide it by the next meeting. Rob will look into funding the mailing.

The next Commission meeting will be on February 21, 2008.